

REMARKS

The title has been amended over the version resulting from the Examiner's Amendment accompanying the March 24, 2006 Notice of Allowability. The amendment simply deletes the word "laser" before "welding" in the title.

Applicants do not wish by the title to imply that "welding" under the present invention is limited to laser welding. The specification clearly states, for example in Paragraph [0014] of the summary section and in Paragraph [0068] of the detailed description section, that welding under the present invention is accomplished with a "directive energy beam" that may be "a laser beam, an electron beam or an ion plasma beam."

Indeed, claim 1, the lone independent claim in this application, recites welding the cover member with a "directive energy beam."

Comments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(e) on Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Under "Reasons for Allowance" in the Notice of Allowability, the Examiner writes, "[T]he prior art of record neither teaches nor shows a method of manufacturing a fluid dynamic pressure bearing including the structure of a sleeve attached to a base member."

Applicants respectfully point out for the record that in the structure of a bearing involving the present invention, a *shaft*—not a sleeve—is attached to a base member.

This is clear from claim 1 to begin with, which recites, "a shaft base having a flat surface on one side thereof [and] a shaft erected on one side of the shaft base."

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'312 Amendment dated June 26, 2006
Response to Notice of Allowability of March 24, 2006

It is earnestly emphasized that the present amendment to the title embodies merely the correction of a formal matter. Applicants look forward to prompt entry of the amendment and issuance of the present application as a patent.

Respectfully submitted,

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